

281 Verendrye mentions their skill in making such things as
 237 painted ox-robos, deer skin, dressed buckskin, and ornamented
 fur and feathers, painted feathers, peltry, wrought garters,
 circlets for the head, and girdles. They certainly understood
 the art of dressing skins, though perhaps other nations equalled
 them. All their visitors speak of the ornamented robes for the
 decoration of which porcupine quills dyed various colors, or the
 pigments themselves, as paints, were used at first, though beads
 came gradually to take their places. The ornamentation con-
 [532] sisted usually of representations of animals, and pictographic
 records. When leather got wet, it was beaten and rubbed with
 white clay which they always carried with them. This kept
 the robes soft. Then there were medicine bags, tobacco
 pouches, sheathes for knives and bows, all of skin, painted or
 embroidered with quills, such as are seen over the whole plains
 [231] area. They had leather bridles for their horses, sometimes
 embroidered, and used a saddle, similar to that of the Dakotas.
 The horses were caught by means of long raw hide lariats which
 the Indians made themselves.

534 Whistles were also necessary articles to those belonging to
 the societies. Maximilian¹ describes them as "long wooden
 whistles at whose lower end an eagle feather on a string dangles."
 He says they also had large flute whistles, twenty inches long,
 with holes to vary the notes by application of the fingers. Be-
 sides these were the war whistles, usually made from the wing
 412 bone of some large bird. Other articles of bone, necessitated
 321 by the great use of skins, were the bone scrapers, needles and
 awls with which each house was profusely supplied.

241 Almost the only agricultural implements which they used
 were hoes. These were the shoulder blades of buffalo or occa-
 sionally of elk, which were cut down and to which a crooked
 stick was fastened as a handle.²

415 Among their cooking utensils, which were used in every hut,
 were spoons and ladles of bighorn and buffalo horns. Veren-
 drye says some of these ladles held as much as three pints.

• 286 So far as the accounts go the Mandans did not make any
 textile fabric, though the Arikara are known to have made

¹ Op. cit., p. 416.

² Henry: vol. I, p. 242.

garters and belts of buffalo hair.